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NEWS RELEASE

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Riverside Superior Court and Justice System Partners Make Progress on New Criminal Case Management Plan

San Diego—Court of Appeal Justice Richard Huffman, of the Fourth Appellate District, Division One, today announced that the Superior Court of Riverside County and its justice system partners have reached agreement on guiding principles for a new criminal case management plan that will be implemented in Riverside County by March 1, 2008.

“The Superior Court and its justice system partners have demonstrated extraordinary commitment to improving access to justice for the public in Riverside County,” stated Justice Huffman.

“It has taken tremendous leadership on behalf of all the justice system partners to create a plan that will improve access to the court system in Riverside County,” said Ms. Sheila Calabro, Regional Administrative Director of the Administrative Office of the Courts. “It has been a privilege to work with them on this very important endeavor.”

A working group of court representatives and justice system partners last week endorsed the concept of a criminal case management plan that is in the process of being reviewed. The plan will be implemented within several months.

The purpose of the plan is to address the large number of backlogged and pending criminal cases in the Superior Court that results from the tremendous growth in population and the historic shortage of judicial resources in Riverside County.

Justice Huffman chairs the task force of court representatives and justice system partners that is seeking effective solutions to the caseload issues in Riverside County. Ms. Calabro chairs the working group that adopted guiding principles for the new criminal case management plan.

In a related development, the Superior Court of Riverside County requested that Chief Justice Ronald M. George assign three retired judges to hear pending civil cases in Riverside County. The assignments are expected to take effect next month. Civil cases will be heard in leased space in the Hawthorne Elementary School.

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The Judicial Council is the policymaking body of the California courts, the largest court system in the nation. Under the leadership of the Chief Justice and in accordance with the California Constitution, the council is responsible for ensuring the consistent, independent, impartial, and accessible administration of justice. The Administrative Office of the Courts carries out the official actions of the council and promotes leadership and excellence in court administration.

Riverside Criminal Backlog Reduction Task Force/Working Group Roster

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Court of Appeal, Fourth Appellate District

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Regional Administrative Director
Administrative Office of the Courts

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Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Riverside County

Hon. Thomas H. Cahraman
Assistant Presiding Judge
Superior Court of Riverside County

Hon. Helios Hernandez
Criminal Supervising Judge
Superior Court of Riverside County

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Superior Court of Riverside County
Southwest Division

Hon. Dave Downing
Superior Court of Riverside County
Desert Division

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Superior Court of Riverside County
Western Division

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Superior Court of Riverside County

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Assistant Executive Officer
Superior Court of Riverside County

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District Attorney
County of Riverside District Attorney

Ms. Sue Steding
Chief Assistant District Attorney
County of Riverside District Attorney

County of Riverside Public Defender

Mr. Gary Windom
Public Defender
County of Riverside Public Defender

Mr. Robert Willey
Assistant Public Defender
County of Riverside Public Defender

Riverside County Probation Department

Mr. Alan Crogan
Chief Probation Officer
Riverside County Probation Department

Mr. Rick Quinata
Chief Deputy Probation Officer
Riverside County Probation Department

Strike Team Judges

Hon. David S. Wesley
Judge
Superior Court of Los Angeles County

Hon. Richard Couzens
Judge (Retired)
Assigned Judges Program

Riverside Criminal Backlog Reduction Task Force/Working Group Roster

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Chief Deputy, Corrections/Transportation Div.
Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Chief Deputy Frank Robles
Chief Deputy, Court Services Div.
Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Captain Lee Wagner
Court Services Div.
Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Captain Walt Meyer
Corrections/Transportation Div.
Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Captain Denver Pittman
Court Services Div.
Riverside County Sheriff's Department

Riverside County Bar Association

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President
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Ms. Barbara Brand
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Contract Defense Panel, Indio

Mr. Paul Grech, Jr.
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